



Whispering Lake Grove

ADF



Lughnasadh

August 2, 2010
6:00 PM



PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT

Joining our hands and closing our eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths (*pause 4 count*). We now stand together, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea. The veil between this world and the Otherworld begins to thin as we prepare to enter sacred time (*pause 4 count*).

Below us flows the primal waters from which we all derived and to which we will each return. They are the well of all memory and potential. Reaching far beneath you into the earth, through the soil and the bedrock to the waters below feel the cool, dark and chaotic energy of these waters. Draw upon the waters of life. Feel these waters as they enter your being, as they pool within the cauldron of your belly, within the cauldron of your heart and finally within the cauldron of your head. (*pause 8 count*)

As the primal waters pulse within you turn your attention skyward. For above us burns the primal fires, the power necessary to generate new life from death. Reaching far beyond the sky into the heavens, through the clouds and the stars and beyond the sun feel the warm, light and ordered energy of the heavens. Draw upon the fires of creation. Feel this fire as it illuminates the cauldron within your head, the cauldron within your heart and finally the cauldron of your belly. (*pause 8 count*)

The fires of the heavens ignite the waters of the earth within you and you become one with the cosmos. Feel the primal powers of fire and water as they surge through you. Your heart beats with the very pulse of the worlds (*pause 8 count*) Know that the fire and water that surges through our veins this day connects us to the land beneath our feet, to the sky above our heads and to the water that surrounds us. It connects us to the spirits of nature, to our Ancestors and to our Gods, linking this world forever to the Otherworld.



As we open our eyes let us all be one as we enter sacred space!

PROCESSION

In song

Come we now as a people

To gather together at the sacred well

Come we now as a people

To gather in the warmth and the light of the flame

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Repeat until all participants have entered the ritual space.

OPENING PRAYERS

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 9 times.*

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Tailtiu

Beloved Foster-Mother of the Many Skilled One

Clearer of Ireland's Great Plain,

And maker of High Kings

Bringer of fertility and fair weather

Great Goddess of Sovereignty.

Last Queen of the Mighty Fir Bolg

Through your sacrifice and death the land does prosper.

It is in your memory we assemble this day!

A sacrifice of bread and milk is made.

Tailtiu, Beloved Mother; accept our offering!

All: Tailtiu, be welcome among us!



Sky Father

We now turn our hearts and minds skyward.

We call to the ancient chieftain among our Gods.

To the One whose quiet patience is forever overhead.

We call to the Father of the Clear Sky.

To the God who wed the Mother of the Earth.

Sky Father we honor you and offer you welcome.

An offering of clarified butter is made.

Sky Father, accept our offering!

All: Sky Father, accept our offering!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Bardic Inspiration

We call upon the Sun-faced Warrior of the Tuatha;

The Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word;

And Father of the Ogham.

Oh, Binder and Inspirer of the Journeying Soul.

Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!

An offering of honey is made.

Oghma, accept our offering!

All: Oghma, be welcome among us!

Honoring the Elder Wise

An offering of bread and beer is made.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual

This eve we gather upon the Earth as one tribe;

To worship and honor the Kindred, as one people;

Celebrating the first fruits from the world around us.



We gather kith, kin and clan beneath the Sky;
To make sacrifice to Lugh of the Long Arm;
Receiving his blessings in return.

We gather to ask Crom Dubh to stay his hand;
To honor Lugh, the Many Skilled One, Hero and High King of
the Tuatha.
This day we keep the Feast of Lughnassadh in remembrance of
Tailtiu's life giving sacrifice for her people.

"Telling of the Tale of Crom Dubh"

May all who gather this eve be welcome among us!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers

The Druids Mist

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled from the Well and the censor is kindled from the Fire. Ritual participants are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor. After the participants are cleansed and purified the Nemeton is cleansed and purified as the following power building chant is led by the Grove Bard.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

When all participants have been purified Raven will step forward saying:

Through the union of fire and water,
Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!
Once more we have met the threat of chaos with order and laid



claim to this place. We have made sacred this space that we may
worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

Let us now raise our voice as one people.

In song

Building Bridges Between Our Divisions

I reach out for you, as you reach out for me

With all of our voices and all of our visions

Brothers we could make such a sweet harmony

Sisters we could make such a sweet harmony

Author Unknown Repeat chant 3 times

Establishing Sacred Time

In the beginning and so too in the end; there was but the fires of the
Sky and the waters of the Earth. And between them lay a fertile
land.

In the South the old Fir Bolg King, dreamed of birds, the sky grew
dark as the great flock approached the shore.

From the North through smoke and mist came beings of great
might and magic, the vast army of the Tuatha to overtake the land.
Bringing with them four treasures that would assure their victory.
Reaching the shore, the Tuatha burnt their ships and a great battle
for the land began. Great numbers of the Fir Bolg fell as the armies
of the Tuatha swept across the land. In defeat the Fir Bolg retreated
to the lands of the Fomorians and the Tuatha De Danann lay claim
to Ireland.

Fire, Well & Tree



All in song

*By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted, deep, crowned high.
By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted, deep, crowned high.*

*Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth,
Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring.
Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth
Come we now to the Well, together we sing.*

An offering of silver is made to the well.

CHORUS

*We will kindle a Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,
We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour,
We will kindle a Fire, a light 'neath the Moon and Sun,
We will kindle a Fire, our spirits will soar.*

An offering of incense is made to the fire.

CHORUS

*Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all
Gather we at the Tree, below & above,
Gather we at the Tree, together we make our call,
Gather we at the Tree, In wisdom and love.*

The bile is censed and asperged.

CHORUS

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COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

The waters support and surround us.
The land extends about us.
The sky stretches above us.
And at the center burns a living flame.
Let us pray with a good fire.



May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.
Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

OPENING THE GATES

Weaver of the Gray Mists; Warder of the Way.
Join us at the center; walk with us this day.

Rider of the Maned Waves; Otherworldly Guide.
Hold the gates before us as we stand in sacred time.

Magician of the Shoreline merge your magic with our own.
Part your mist before us; Great King without a thrown.

Irish whiskey is offered to Manannan

Manannan MacLir, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

*Gatekeeper open the portals,
Between the Gods and mortals,
Power freely flows, as our magic grows!*

Repeat chant three times

© Liafal

Opening the Gates

Manannan, let us stand at the center of all worlds!
Sacred Fires of the heavens, burn within this place.
Primal Waters of the earth, flow within this place.

World Tree joining earth and sky, grow within this place.



Striking a sigil over the householder fire.

Let the flames of the sacred fire carry our praise and sacrifice to the Shining Ones.

Striking a sigil over the fire of the fathers.

Let the waters of the sacred well carry our praise and sacrifice to the Mighty Dead.

Striking a sigil over the sacrificial fire.

Let the tree connect the realms as the worlds become one in this place.

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

We now stand at the center of all worlds!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

Now that the world of the living and that of the spirit are one, we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Kindred.

Nature Spirits

Beasts of legend and lore

Lurkers of mist and shadow

Creatures of fur, fin and feather

Allies of the middle realm

Nature Spirits, join us in celebration! Stand with us as we honor Lugh!

Seeds are offered upon the ground.

Nature Spirits, accept our offering!

All: Nature Spirits, be welcome among us!

Ancestors

Wise Ones of the Realm Below!

Beloved Dead of blood and spirit;



Ancestors of flesh and bone

Heros of myth and legend

Mighty Ones, join us in celebration! Stand with us as we honor Lugh!

Irish Whiskey is offered.

Ancestors, accept our offerings!

All: Ancestors, be welcome among us!

Shining Ones

Eldest and Brightest of the Realm Above!

Bringers of life, death and rebirth.

Deities of Might, of Magic and those of the Mist.

Blessed Children of Danu!

Shining and Chthonic Ones, join us in celebration! Stand with us as we honor Lugh!

Clarified butter is offered.

Shining Ones and Chthonic Ones, accept our offering!

All: Shining Ones be welcome among us!

Let us raise our voices in song to call forth the Kindred.

All in song

Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe

Powers of Earth and Sky and Sea

By Fire and Well, by Sacred Tree

Offerings We Make to Ye

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Repeat chant three times.



HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Lugh

Bright Hero of the Tuatha
Wielder of the Spear of Glorias
And Master of Many Arts.

Mighty Young Bull of the first harvest
Great Guardian of roads and travelers
Champion, Protector and King

Through your strength and courage our tribe will prosper.
It is your image of perfection for which we strive
An offering of wheat bread & honey is made.

Lugh of the Long Arm, accept our offering!

All: Lugh, be welcome among us!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to Lugh.

SEASONAL ENACTMENT/GROUP PRAISE

For our ancestors the time of Lughnassadh was the time of the first harvest. The time when the first grains of barley were ground and baked into bread. The hunger had ended and the tribe could look forward to the bountiful season of harvest. The crops were still in danger of blight, frost or hail. This could mean a lean, hard winter to come.

The ancients sacrificed to the Dark, Bent One, Crom Dubh, that he may stay his hand until the harvest ended at Samhain. Today as the ancient before us, let us make sacrifice to Crom...



Crom Dubh (Raven)

Ancient black bowed one
Ruler of the dark and shadows
Withered old bull upon the barren land

Dark, bent one beyond the borders of our fire's light
Carrier of mankind's burdens of the harvest
Stay your hand this day.

Through your sacrifice and death;
No longer are you an Outsider among our people.

An offering of a bundle of wheat and wild flowers is made.

Crom Dubh, accept our offering!

All: Crom, be welcome among us!

Lughnasadh is also the time that the young bull vanquishes the old. The time when Lugh stands as guardian for the survival of the tribe. A survival that relies on a good harvest.

Champion come forward and receive your weapon.

The Champion is handed the Spear of Lugh. (The Champion will be selected through games held earlier in the day).

At Beltaine you were the "Hawk of May", but today you are the mighty young bull, protector of the clan and tribe. The old bull awaits your coming. He is prepared for his time of rest. His sacrifice signals the beginning of the reaping. Through his sacrifice may we enjoy a bountiful season of harvest.

The Champion cuts off the head of the old bull (The old bull is made of bread!) The sacrificer will gather the head and place it on a tray. The Champion followed by the sacrificer will process the head once around the Nemeton for all to see. The sacrificer will then place among the Hallows.

The harvest is in and the hunger is over!

Good Folk, bring forth the first of the harvest!



Ritual participants will come forth and take first fruits of the harvest, placing them upon the tray containing the old bulls head. Once all items have been placed.

The old bull now travels to his place of rest.

The sacrificer proceeded by the Champion will take the tray to its final resting place by the head of Crom at the top of the hill above the Nemeton. Once the offering has been made.

Crom, the land will soon be yours once again, we ask that you accept this gift, the first of the harvest, that you may stay your hand awhile longer.

The young bull may now ascend to his rightful place.

The Champion comes forward to the Hallows, spear in hand.

The Sacrificer removes the body of the old bull and the Champion replaces the bull's body with the spear.

Mighty Champion of the Folk; Hero of the Tuatha. Master of the Arts. Bright Lugh, bless our growing fields that we may reap a good harvest.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We have honored Lugh, as he walks among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive their guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our guests of honor!
As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.
The final sacrifice of a spear is prepared.

It is in love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to our guest this night.
We have sung his praise; made our sacrifice.
It is our hope that our words and sacrifice have conveyed our love.



We call once more through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld that all shall know of our devotion.

Lugh, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Lugh, accept our sacrifice!

All: Lugh, accept our sacrifice!

THE OMEN

The Omen is taken by drawing three Runes. The seer then interprets the omen asking if our sacrifice and offerings have been accepted. The Seer then leads the company to contemplate the blessings/warnings of the omen from the Deity of the Occasion. As the omen is taken the following song is sung by the participants to focus the last of the remaining energy through the gates.

Let our voices arise on the fire.

Let our voices resound in the deep

Let the Kindred accept what we offer

As we honor the old ways we keep

(Chant written by members of Sonoran Sunrise Grove, ADF)

CALLING FOR THE BLESSING

Two pitchers will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows. The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.

As in the ways of old we have given our gifts freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given unto us in return.

We will drink deep of the Cup of Inspiration. May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.

Lugh your blessings upon us!

All: Lugh your blessings upon us!



We gather with you between Earth and Sky. We are proud to call ourselves your people.

Once again, Lugh your blessings upon us!

All: Lugh your blessings upon us!

We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

One last time, Lugh your blessings upon us!

All: Lugh your blessings upon us!

The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

Behold the Waters of Life!

Lugh hear and bless us.

Oh, Many Skilled One, share your magic with us and hallow these Waters of Life.

An officiant lifts the pitchers before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

Now Good folk, do you wish to receive the blessings of Lugh this night? _____. Then we shall drink deep his blessings!

The Waters are passed and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

As we receive the blessing let us raise our voices in song.

In song

Pour the waters, raise the cup, drink your share of wisdom deep, strength and love now fill us up as the elder ways we keep.



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Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

THANKING THE BEINGS

Lugh of the Long Arm, the Many Skilled One. May you continue to guide and protect us, as we strive to mirror your image. Great King of the Tuatha, we thank you for your many blessings this eve. **(offering a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Lugh, we thank you!

Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest, Wisest and Mightiest of the realms. May you continue to protect, guide and bless us as we walk this path. Kindred we thank you for the knowledge and blessings you have shared with us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

Elder Wise, ...We than you for the wisdom you have offered us. **(A final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Elder Wise, we thank you!

Oghma, Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word. We thank you for the inspiration and eloquence you have shared with us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Oghma, we thank you!



CLOSING THE GATES

Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; we thank you for your protection and guidance as we stand at the center of all worlds this night **(a bannock is offered upon the fire)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Manannan, we thank you!

Manannan Mac Lir, Great Guardian of the Threshold, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

Let the fire burning towards the heavens once more become but flames.

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld once more become but water.

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become but wood.
By the land before us!

By the seas about us!

By the sky above us!

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Illuminating One of the Heavens, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right. Bright Sky Father, we thank you



for the strength and healing warmth you have given us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Sky Father, we thank you!

Tailtiu, Beloved Mother. May you continue to bless the land and our lives. Great Goddess of Sovereignty, we thank you for your ultimate sacrifice. **(offering a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Tailtiu, we thank you! **(a final token is offered)**

We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us. All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.

STATEMENT OF ENDING

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

Good folk, join me once more as we close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth **(pause for a 2 count)**.

As the mighty oak is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night **(pause)**.

As we stand between Earth and Sky

Once more feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters.

Once more feel the coolness of the waters that have pooled within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. **(pause 4 count)**

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens.

Know that above us burns the primal fires.



Once more feel the warmth of the fires that have illuminated your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 4 count)*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through you, as they have given strength and energy to your being. *(pause 4 count)*

Keep of this power what you need, sending what remains forth from our beings into the Great Lake **(pause)**. See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship.

May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

(Jim)

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 9 times.*

All: We will keep the faith until the sky falls upon us and crushes us; until the earth opens and swallows us; until the seas arise and overwhelm us.

Recessional Song

Once more may we now raise our voices in song as we leave our Nemeton.

CHORUS

*The sky fuels the waters
And the waters sustain the skies
We walk together from this place
With the honored as our guides
Strong in our purpose
We balance and survive
From many wells of fortitude
Our spirits are revived*

CHORUS

*Joyous in our sharing
We honor dead and alive
With voices of sacred wisdom
We travel the path of our lives*



CHORUS

*Fulfilled in our learning
Our souls will always thrive
In our varied hearts and minds
We keep the sacred for all time*

CHORUS

(lyrics by Isaura; music by Raven of the Sorrows)

Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in our Lughnasadh celebration.

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

Come We Now As a People, The Portal Song, Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe, and Pour the Waters.

Liafal for the chant

The Gatekeeper

Unknown Author of the chant

Building Bridges

Ceisivr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Sonoran Sunrise Grove, ADF for the omen chant



Whispering Lake Grove, ADF
Lughnasadh Ritual
2010

Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)

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